GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4331
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001
EXPERT COMMITTEE ON POLYMETALLIC NODULES
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

a. whether as Expert Committee was constituted in September 1997 with funds of Rs. 123 crore on the Polymetallic Nodules (PMN) lying on the ocean floor at depths of 3500 to 6000meters containing upto 30 metals incliuding nickel, copper, cobalt, managenese, molybdenum, vanadium and titanium:

b. if so, whether the said Committee has made any headway in developing the sea bed:

c. if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereunder so far; and

d. the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government oto achieve the target of National Programme on PROGRAMME ON Polymetallic Nodules?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN IRESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE IAND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOR JOSHI)

a. No Sir. However a High Power Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arcot Ramachandran Ex Secretary DST was appointed on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on science & Technology, Environment & Forests to critically assess the Polymetallic Nodule Programme (PMN) taking into consideration of the long gestation period.The Committee submitted its report and recommended to make available Rs. 123.00 crores for implementation of PMN Programme.

b. c & d The department has taken necessary action on the recommendations of the committee.